

Progress Report
on
Protection and Legal Action against Women & Child
Trafficking

For the period
January 01 to June 30, 2001

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Progress Report

Reporting Period: January 1 - June 30, 2001

Project Title: Protection and Legal Action against Women & Child Trafficking

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Implementing Organization

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Performance Report for the period January 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001

Introduction/Justification/Summary

Introduction

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) is one of the pioneer organizations in the field of human rights in Bangladesh. Along with many other human rights related activities BNWLA is also working with trafficking in women and children issue. Since inception, the organization rescued and released a large number of trafficked victims from various confinements such as brothel, cage brothel, safe custody etc. within the country. It also repatriated trafficked victims from India, Pakistan and UAE and rehabilitated them through reintegration into the society. To expedite its anti trafficking activities the organization has undertaken project entitled **“Protection and Legal Action against Women and Child Trafficking”** with the financial assistance of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID made this grant in recognition of BNWLA's efforts towards providing protection and legal action support to women and children who are victim of trafficking. With the implementation of the project basic human rights of women and children will be protected in Bangladesh. This report intends to present information about the program implementation under the aforementioned project covering the period from Jan 1, 2001 to June 30, 2001.

Objectives:

Protection and Legal Action Against Women and Child Trafficking program focused its activities to achieve the following major objectives:

- ❖ Provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecutions concerning trafficking;
- ❖ Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking to secure more arrests and prosecutions;
- ❖ Repatriate trafficked children and women from other countries;
- ❖ Rehabilitate the victims of trafficking through integration to family and employment.

Justification

Trafficking of women and children within the territory and outside Bangladesh is a common phenomenon. Uneducated and vulnerable women and children who are deprived of legal, social and financial support and opportunities easily become subjects of versatile exploitation and harassment. Poor and disadvantaged children and women are often trafficked from Bangladesh to India, Pakistan and the Middle East for various kinds of bonded labor such as camel jockeys, prostitution and sex slavery etc. The victims are either abducted or allured with promises of better life by providing lucrative job or marriage offers and false proposals to visit holy places. But practically they become victims of trafficking and embrace the lives of agony and torture.

Lack of education, poverty and overpopulation are the key factors for trafficking. Most of the victims are women, adolescent girls and minor boys. BNWLA felt that concerted efforts with comprehensive program of legal action against the traffickers, rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of the victims of trafficking should be undertaken to combat trafficking. BNWLA initiated the program to effectively reduce the incidents of the trafficking in women and children in the country.

Summary

Information gathered from ten focal sites regarding trafficking cases at district level: The Field Officers gathered extensive information based on which legal assistance has been provided to trafficked victims. Communication and liaison with various stakeholders and concerned groups have been maintained to achieve objective.

Use district level information regarding trafficking cases to provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecution: The concerned Field Officers at different districts investigated more than 100 incidents of trafficking and subsequently 55 cases and 16 General Diary (GD) were filed with the assistance of BNWLA. Besides, information concerning the cases has been documented on regular basis for further investigation and action. Prosecution of several cases has been going on out of which one judgment has been given where one accused has been convicted.

Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking in an effort to secure more arrest and prosecution: Information has been gathered about more than 100 incidents related to trafficking from 10 focal sites under the project during the period under review. A total of 17 one-day workshops were held at 10 different focal points.

Operationalize the steps required to repatriate children/women from other countries: A total of nine trafficked victims were repatriated from different countries and process of repatriation of a large number of victims has been finalized during the period. The Field Officers at district level visited jails, police stations and courts to monitor the cases and prosecution of the trafficking cases. In addition, a total of 17 victims of internal trafficking were released under the project.

Provide rehabilitation support to trafficking victims: A total of nine repatriated and 17 internally released victims of trafficking were provided with psychological and social support during the period. Besides, a total of 14 victims have been rehabilitated during the period under review. The rehabilitated residents are regularly monitored.

Description of Activities

Total activities of the project are conducted under six major domains called result. Sub-activities conducted under each of the main result during the reporting period are described below:

Result-1: Set up ten focal sites to collect information regarding trafficking cases at district level

The project proposal envisaged conducting a number of events under this major activity such as carry out preliminary baseline survey, liaison with stakeholders, visit thana and court for monitoring, collect and verify information, assist victims in seeking legal assistance, assist panel lawyers in prosecuting offenders, arrange group discussion meeting with various groups, develop data base, field visit for monitoring etc. during the reporting period.

Preliminary baseline survey: As per plan a baseline survey has been conducted during the reporting period. Two types of questionnaire were developed to elicit information from government officials such as police, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), judges, administrative officials etc. on the one hand and members of the civil society including academics, lawyers, NGO activists etc. on the other. The survey has been conducted at 10 focal sites where the project activities are being implemented. The survey aims at revealing the root causes and consequences of trafficking, identify trafficking prone areas, target group of trafficking, route used by the traffickers, role of government officials and civil society in combating trafficking, statistics to determine trafficking scenario in Bangladesh etc. Data has been collected from the field and data processing and compilation are going on that are likely to be completed by mid September 2001.

Liaison with stakeholders: The Field Officers and investigation officer maintained constant contact and liaison with different stakeholders including local journalist, representatives of the local elected bodies, local NGOs, community people and gathered necessary important information concerning trafficking. The concerned staff members of the project maintained liaison and exchanged views with the aforementioned stakeholders at least once a month.

Visit police station and court for monitoring and collect and verify information: The Investigation Officer and Field officers visited their respective police stations, courts and maintained liaison with law enforcing agencies to gather necessary information about trafficking. They also gathered relevant information about trafficking related cases and shared them with the higher authority and the panel lawyers to take necessary action in this regard. The project staffs visited different police stations and courts 387 times during the reporting period. The following table shows month and focal site wise status of visit:

Focal Point Month	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total
January	08	04	10	04	04	06	04	09	02	09	60
February	09	0	09	04	08	06	06	05	03	07	57
March	10	0	08	0	0	10	05	07	09	04	53
April	07	03	08	0	04	09	10	09	10	08	68
May	06	04	07	0	02	13	12	7	08	11	70
June	05	04	07	0	08	12	11	06	12	14	79
Total	45	15	49	8	26	56	48	43	44	53	387

Assist victims in seeking legal assistance: A total of 55 cases (First Information Report) related to trafficking were lodged with various police stations under different districts throughout the country during the reporting period. A total of 98 victims received legal assistance throughout the country under the project during the period. Of the total 55 cases one case was lodged at Bagherhat district, two at Cox's Bazar, six with different thanas (police station) under Chapai Nawabganj, three at Dhaka, one at Dinajpur, 16 cases were lodged with different thanas under Gopalganj, nine at Jessore, two at Khulna, six at Lalmonirhat, three at Narayanganj, five at Satkhira and one at Thakurgaon district. A total of 170 persons were made accused under these cases. In addition to these, 15 General Diary (GD) were filed with different police stations during the period. A total of 17 trafficked victims related to these cases were rescued. Besides, the Field Officers of the project provided assistance to eight panel lawyers with necessary information in prosecuting offenders of trafficking cases during the period under review. One trafficker was convicted for life imprisonment by the Session Judge of Satkhira district Mr. Sirajul Islam in April 2001 for his alleged involvement in trafficking of one girl. The concerned Field Officer and Panel Lawyer of Satkhira focal site worked very hard in terms of providing assistance to the Public Prosecutor by mobilizing witnesses and with necessary papers and documents etc. The following table shows district wise status of the cases:

District	No. of Case	No. of Victim	No. of Trafficker
Bagherhat	1	1	2
Cox's Bazar	2	3	4
Chapai Nawabganj	6	17	16
Dhaka	3	13	7
Dinajpur	1	1	3
Gopalganj	16	16	67
Jessore	9	11	22
Khulna	2	2	5
Lalmonirhat	6	10	14
Narayanganj	3	10	12
Satkhira	5	12	14
Thakurgaon	1	2	4
Total	55	98	170

Assist Panel Lawyers in prosecuting offenders: The Investigation Officer and Field Officers of the project assisted the panel lawyers at almost all the focal sites during the reporting period. The Field Officers gathered detailed information about the cases that helped the Panel Lawyers to a great extent in understanding and prosecuting the

cases properly. The Field Officers also mobilized witnesses for ensuring proper judgement against the traffickers. In districts outside the focal sites of the project where BNWLA does not have its own Panel Lawyer the Field Officers built rapport with good lawyers at the respective districts and engaged them in prosecuting the cases of the project. The table given below provides the data on the aforementioned activity:

Focal Point	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total
Month											
January	0	0	04	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	6
February	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
March	0	0	03	0	0	0	01	0	01	0	5
April	0	01	01	0	1	0	02	0	01	02	8
May	2	01	0	0	0	02	04	1	04	06	20
June	0	02	01	0	1	02	02	02	02	03	15
Total	3	4	9	0	2	4	9	3	10	11	55

*Cases of Khulna and Bagherhat are included under Satkhira focal point as the Field Officer of Satkhira has been working for these cases.

Identify specific high profile cases for further investigation: The project has identified one high profile trafficking case that was lodged with Badda thana at Dhaka City. The case was lodged against trafficking of Rubel an 11-year-old boy who returned home after working as Camel Jockey for six years in United Arab Emirate (UAE). Six years back he was allegedly trafficked by one Najma Begum to UAE along with some other tiny boys from the slum of Samir Mia of Bhanga Nayanagar under Badda police station in Dhaka. BNWLA was informed that Najma returned home with Rubel to collect more boys to traffic to Middle East. On receiving the information Investigation Officer of BNWLA hurriedly went to Rangpur along with the mother of Rubel on May 17, 2001 where the alleged traffickers were staying at that time. He subsequently rescued Rubel from the possession of one Mannan and Najma from Mitha Pukur under Rangpur district with the assistance of local police. Police arrested Mannan and Najma in this connection. Rubel was later brought to the shelter home of BNWLA where he is currently living (detailed case study is enclosed with the report). The process of the case is going on in full swing. The concerned Magistrate has already taken statement of the victim under section 164.

Discussion meeting with local journalist, local elected bodies, community people and educational institutions: The Field Officers of the project have conducted 248 discussion meetings with local journalists, local elected bodies, community people and educational institutions and tried to elicit information about trafficking and make them aware of the matter. In the meeting the Field Officers discussed various aspects such as causes, consequences of trafficking and mechanisms usually used by the traffickers and urged them to remain vigilant against this heinous crime. The Field Officers also inspire them to take necessary steps about trafficking issue. The following table demonstrates focal site wise organization of discussion meeting:

Focal Point	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total
Month											
January	0	0	08	0	0	0	02	05	0	0	15
February	06	0	05	0	0	04	11	04	13	02	45
March	3	14	09	0	0	03	11	05	10	05	60
April	06	05	07	0	05	03	02	0	10	06	44
May	05	04	08	0	02	02	02	6	03	04	36
June	05	09	09	0	03	03	04	06	06	03	48
Total	25	32	46	0	10	15	32	26	42	20	248

Develop database: A database has been developed on trafficking in women and children in Bangladesh under the project. For developing the database BNWLA signed a contract with a renowned IT firm namely DATA TREK during the reporting period. DATA TREK has already developed the database and upgrading of the database is going on continuously. Necessary data is being collected by interviewing victims and their relatives from all over the country. The data is being incorporated into the database by the concerned staff of BNWLA. The basic data that is being collected and incorporated into the database include victim's profile, information about traffickers, information about the incident, routes, other victims etc. Legal information about trafficking issue is also being incorporated into the database. Data input will be continued during the whole of the project period.

Field visit for monitoring: The Project Coordinator visited different focal sites to monitor the activities of the project during the reporting period. The visited focal sites are Dhaka, Chapai Nawabganj, Narayanganj and Cox's Bazar.

Coordination meeting: This sub-activity is not stipulated in the original work plan but in order to expedite the program activities of the project and to yield good result, a regular monthly coordination meeting with the Field Officers has been held during the reporting period. As the Project Coordinator needs to coordinate all the activities of all the 10 focal sites as well as the head office based project activities it is difficult on his part to visit all the focal sites on regular basis. To minimize the gap the Project Coordinator has developed a detailed and meticulous monthly work plan for the Field Officers based on the main work plan of the project. The Field Officers are performing their activities on the basis of that monthly work plan and accordingly reporting to the Project Coordinator in the meeting. The overall progress of the activities of the project, especially at the focal sites are discussed and reviewed in the meeting. Alternative ways and means to achieve more success are also explored in the meeting. Especial assignments are also given to the Field Officers to maximize the results of the project such as cases, gathering of information, follow up etc.

Result-2: To use district level information regarding trafficking cases to provide assistance to secure more arrests and prosecutions

Investigate the cases of child and women trafficking: The Field Officers and the Investigation Officer of the project investigated more than 100 cases based on the information gathered by visiting fields, other sources such as local newspaper and by visiting brothels, jails and police stations. Out of the investigated cases the project has

picked up 71 incidents and proceeded for necessary legal and other actions during the period.

Assist filing cases: A total of 55 cases of trafficking of women and children were filed with different police stations under different districts in the country with the assistance of the project during the reporting period. In addition to these, 16 GDs have been filed during the period.

Liaison with law enforcing authorities and public prosecutor: The Field Officers of the project maintained constant liaison and communication with the concerned members of the law enforcing agencies including police, BDR, Public Prosecutor (PP) and Assistant Public Prosecutors (APP) to collect information and follow up the progress of the cases. They have established rapport with the PP and APP and assist them along with the Panel Lawyers by providing significant information and mobilizing witnesses to assure proper judgement in trafficking cases.

Detect irregularities in the legal procedure and initiative to eliminate those: The concerned Field Officers and Investigator of the project monitored different cases at various levels including investigation and prosecution level to detect irregularities. The Field Officers have been made aware that traffickers sometime enfeeble the cases in connivance with the concerned police official and Public Prosecutor. The Field Officers through their extensive monitoring revealed several irregularities in the legal procedure and also found some irregularities intentionally conducted by the members of the law enforcing agencies. For instance in some cases the concerned investigator police official hurriedly gave final report dropping the name of the main accused from the case and without identifying proper witnesses. In some cases trafficking cases have been made case under passport act. This resulted in acquitting the traffickers from the cases of trafficking. The concerned staff members of the project with the assistance of the panel lawyers protested these sorts of irregularities adopted by law enforcing agencies by giving objection against the final reports and pleaded before the court to issue order for further investigation. Besides, the project through organizing workshops at district level is creating awareness among journalists, lawyers, members of the law enforcing agencies and the cross section of civil society to make them aware of these irregularities.

Mobilize the stakeholders for necessary action: During the reporting period the project staff of BNWLA both at national and local level maintained regular communication and liaison with different stakeholders including members of the law enforcing agencies, BDR, ATSEC members, local elected bodies, community people etc. The project also created awareness among them about hazardous aspects of trafficking in women and children through organizing various programs to mobilize their support to take necessary action in combating trafficking in their respective localities.

Monitor the legal procedure: The Investigator and Field Officers in association with the Panel Lawyers monitored the legal procedure of 55 cases of trafficking some at the investigation level and some at the prosecution level during the reporting period. They assisted the concerned police official in charge of investigation with necessary information as well as proper witnesses. They also assisted the concerned Public Prosecutor in obstructing the traffickers from obtaining bails. They also monitored

whether the police prepared the charge sheet properly and whether the Public Prosecutor conducted the prosecution in a proper way.

Document the information regarding the cases: The Investigator and Field Officers of the project gathered detailed information about the cases investigated and filed as part of the activities of the project. The information gathered by investigation is documented at two levels, one at the field level where the Field Officers documented the information for their future action and at the national level the Information Specialist documented the information in a more systematic way using computerized data storing packages. The information that was sent by the Investigator and Field Officers to the Information Specialist was cross-checked at the monthly coordination meeting during the period. The Field Officers also gather information through filling up the questionnaire developed to gather information for the database and the Information Specialist incorporates the information into the database on regular basis.

Result-3: Operationalize the existing legal procedures on child/women trafficking in an effort to secure more arrests and prosecutions

Collect and analyze information related to reporting, arrest and prosecution procedures at district level: The staff members of the project collected detailed information about more than 100 incidents of trafficking in women and children and analyzed the collected information to proceed for taking legal action against the traffickers. After analyzing the information the project found 55 potential cases in terms of ensuring judgement against the traffickers. The information was analyzed at two levels one at the district level where the Field Officers themselves made decision for taking further action based on their experience. If the cases were found little complicated then the Field Officers referred them to the head office where the top officials of the project in consultation with the senior lawyers of the organization analyzed the information and accordingly gave directives to the concerned Field Officer to go for further action in this regard. Based on the information collected by the staff of the project a total of 30 alleged traffickers were arrested and one Madab Kumar Sardar of Satkhira was convicted for life imprisonment in April 2001 for trafficking a woman to India. The concerned Field Officer and Panel Lawyer worked hard by mobilizing witness and keeping constant communication with Public Prosecutor that helped immensely in getting the judgment. The following table shows the list of arrested traffickers during the period January 2001 to June 2001:

Sl. No.	Month	Case No.	Thana/District	No. of Arrested Accused
1.	January 2001	20/20	Shiddirganj/Narayang-anj	6
2.	February 2001	82	Mirpur/Dhaka	1
		5/14	Patgram/Lalmonirhat	1
		14/34	Shiddirganj/Narayang-anj	4
		GR-53	Shibganj/Chapai N ganj	2
3.	March 2001	3/10	Hatibandha/Lalmonirhat	4

4.	April 2001	2/51	Sadar/Narayanganj	3
		1172000	Sadar/Satkhira	1
5.	May 2001	20/2000	Cantonment/Dhaka	3
		5/30	Kaliganj/Lalmonirhat	3
6.	June 2001	GR-492/01	Ulipur/Lalmonirhat	1
		23/166	Godagari/Rajshahi	1
Total				30

Develop user friendly operational manuals for different groups: The concerned staff including Project Coordinator, Information Specialist and Investigator have started to prepare user friendly manuals for various groups that include lawyers, law enforcing agencies, NGOs and other concerned officials who are related with the issue of trafficking in women and children. The text of the manual is expected to be completed by the first of week of September 2001.

Organize one-day workshop at 10 focal sites: A total of 17 one-day workshops at 17 districts were organized during the reporting period. Nine out of 10 workshops stipulated in the reporting phase of the project were held along with eight workshops that were supposed to have been held during the previous phase (July to December 2000). On average 35 participants including government officials, local lawyers, journalists, NGO representatives, members of the law enforcing agencies and representatives of the civil society participated at each of the workshops. The following aspects of trafficking were discussed at the workshops: root causes of trafficking, consequences of trafficked victims, route of trafficking and recruiting area, destination of trafficking, mechanism used by traffickers, ways and means of combating trafficking etc. The facilitators who were mainly the member lawyers of BNWLA also discussed different trafficking related laws including CEDAW and CRC. The project staff developed a power point presentation where all necessary aspects of trafficking in women and children including initiative of BNWLA in combating trafficking were incorporated and they presented it at the workshop at Dhaka that was held on June 28, 2001.

All the workshops received moderate newspaper coverage by both local and national level newspaper. In addition to these, reports on the workshops at Dhaka, Narayanganj and Cox's Bazar were broadcast by Bangladesh Television, while the workshop at Chapai Nawabganj was reported by Bangladesh Betar (radio). Some paper clippings containing the reports of the workshops are enclosed with the report.

Result-4: Operationalize the steps required to repatriate children/women from other countries

Identify persons who need to be repatriated: After maintaining constant communications with partner organizations and relevant bodies in different countries the project identified at least 30 persons in different countries who needed to be repatriated and initiated to repatriate them through proper official procedure during the period of reporting. But due to time-consuming procedure the trafficked victims

identified at Kolkata in India could not be repatriated during the period. Their repatriation are expected to be completed by the end of October 2001. Meanwhile the project repatriated nine trafficked victims from different countries during the period. Of the nine four were repatriated from Pakistan, three from Delhi, India and two from United Arab Emirate (UAE). The following table shows the status of repatriation:

Date of Repatriation	Name and Age of Repatriated Victims	Country
14-01-2001	Asma (19)	Pakistan
17-01-2001	Alaya (40)	Pakistan
17-01-2001	Akram (6)	Pakistan
11-02-2001	Jahanara (20)	Pakistan
19-05-2001	Amir Hossain Rubel (11)	UAE
02-06-2001	Mohammad Hanif (13)	Delhi, India
02-06-2001	Mohammad Talib (13)	Delhi, India
02-06-2001	Mohammad Jasim (8)	Delhi, India
26-06-2001	Ambia Begum (35)	UAE

Carry out preliminary investigation and contact guardians for authorization: The project staff of BNWLA in consultation with the Executive Director communicated with the partner organizations and the concerned department in different countries regarding repatriation of victims of trafficking. Meanwhile, inside the country the Investigator and the Field Officers carried out preliminary investigations on all the cases and gathered necessary information about the identity of the victims that helped expedite the repatriation process. The concerned project staff also contacted guardians of the victims and collected authorization for repatriation and rehabilitation. In case of injured victims the project staff took them to hospital directly from the Airport and ensured proper treatment for them.

Approval from Home Ministry and contact relevant organizations abroad: The project maintained constant liaison and communication and lobbying with the Ministry of Home Affairs to receive their approval that was mandatory for repatriating trafficked victims. Besides, Communication was also maintained on regular basis with the Bangladeshi Embassy/High Commission and BNWLA's partner organizations in different countries to receive their assistance in order to make the repatriation process speedy and smooth.

Visit brothels, jails and police stations to identify the victims of internal trafficking and release them: The Investigation Officer and Field Officers of the project visited police stations, jails, brothels etc. regularly to identify and release victims of internal trafficking. With the help of panel lawyers and sometime member lawyers of BNWLA, the project staff identified more than 25 victims in various jails and brothels of that they were able to release 17 victims during the reporting period. Initiative is going on for releasing the rest of the victims from different confinements. Detailed information concerning the internal release of victims are given in the following table:

Date of Release	Name and Age of Released Victims	Place of confinement
03-01-2001	Anwara Begum (18)	Mymensingh Safe Custody
30-01-2001	Ali Ahmed Russel (7)	Satkhira Border
30-01-2001	Mohbubul Hossain (12)	Satkhira Sadar
05-02-2001	Dipali Shil (17)	Dhaka City
27-02-2001	Nasima Khatoon (8)	Satkhira Safe Custody
20-02-2001	Sama Das (11)	Mymensingh Safe Custody
06-03-2001	Mohammad Hassan Hossain (8)	Benapole Border
30-03-2001	Molina (8)	Lalmonirhat Safe Custody
20-03-2001	Suruji (6)	Lalmonirhat Safe Custody
10-04-2001	Farzana Akhter Munni (19)	Lalmonirhat Safe Custody
14-05-2001	Shah Alam(10)	Gazipur Safe Custody
14-05-2001	Shahinoor (7)	Gazipur Safe Custody
15-05-2001	Asrafu Islam (8)	Benapole Port Thana
24-05-2001	Bilkis Khatun (16)	Jessore Brothel
29-05-2001	Rubina	Dhaka Safe Custody
29-05-2001	Tanzil (7)	Dhaka Safe Custody
29-05-2001	Shahidul (3)	Dhaka Safe Custody
Total Released-17		

Result-5: Provide rehabilitation support to trafficking victims

Provide psychological and social support to the repatriated/released trafficking victims and their families: The repatriated and internally released trafficked victims are usually psychologically traumatized as they bear dreadful memories of torture and agony. Other members of their families also become demoralized. So they need psychological counseling to overcome their trauma when they are repatriated and/or released from internal confinements. Professional Counselors of the project provided psychological counseling to nine repatriated victims and 17 internally released victims that helped them a lot in overcoming their trauma. After receiving counseling most of the victims became normal and felt confident as dignified members of the society. The project also provided socio-psychological counseling and support to the members of the victims' families. These supports were necessary for the victims as well as their families to attain a normal psychological position and regain mental strength to go for legal action against the traffickers at the one hand and think about their future in terms of establishment in the society on the other. The counselors also monitored the facilities of repatriated inmates staying in the shelter home of the organization. The project rehabilitated 14 trafficked victims during the reporting period. Of the rehabilitated persons some were reintegrated to their families while some of them were rehabilitated by providing with jobs. The table given below demonstrates the status of rehabilitation of the victims:

Date of Rehabilitation	Name and age of Victims	Place of Rehabilitation
18-01-2001	Aleya Begum	Family
18-01-2001	Akram	Family
02-03-2001	Asma	Family
04-03-2001	Jahanara Begum Shefali	Mother
26-05-2001	Molina	Parents
26-05-2001	Suruj	Parents
17-05-2001	Shah Alam	Mother
17-05-2001	Shahinur	Mother
24-05-2001	Asraful	Father
02-06-2001	Talib	Family
02-06-2001	Hanif	Family
12-06-2001	Shahanz Chowdhury	Job
12-06-2001	Priya	Job
17-06-2001	Rosna	Mother

Monitor/follow up the rehabilitated inmates: The counselors and Field Officers of the project monitored and followed up 17 rehabilitated victims of trafficking at different districts during the reporting period. During the visits they inquire about the condition and welfare of the rehabilitated persons and took necessary measures as needed.

Establish relationship with other organizations: In some cases the victims of trafficking are rehabilitated through reintegration to their families. And some want to be rehabilitated through getting job. In order to rehabilitate the repatriated and released victims through linkage to employment BN WLA has established and strengthened relationship with some big NGOs such as BRAC, Proshika, ASA, Red Barnet partners, ATSEC network member, some industries including renowned garment industries etc. These big organizations can provide employment opportunity to the repatriated trafficked victims. BRAC has already provided one inmate of BNWLA with job at one of its branch at Tangail district. Besides, four inmates have been provided with jobs at different big garment factories in the city and they are being regularly followed up by the Counselors of the project. It is expected that a substantial number of victims will be rehabilitated through these organizations by the end of this project.

Result-6: Dialogue workshop in collaboration with other organizations

Dialogue meeting with law enforcing agency, lawyer, BDR and representative from local NGOs on child and women trafficking: To elicit more information about cross border trafficking and other related matters the project envisaged holding dialogue meeting with the aforementioned groups. To this end the project invited mainly Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel in two of its workshops held at Dinajpur and Joypurhat (in place of Lalmonirhat). In those workshops the BRD personnel listened to the lecture and interacted spontaneously and shared their experiences with other

participants and the representatives of BNWLA. During the discussion with BDR personnel the issue of passport act which is frequently used to enfeeble trafficking cases were highlighted. Besides, the project ensured participation of police personnel, lawyers and representatives of NGOs at the workshops to make them aware and exchange views with them on the issue of trafficking in women and children and various problems relating to the issue. Meanwhile, the Field Officers of the project held meetings with these groups on regular basis in their respective focal sites.

Holding of separate dialogue meetings with the above mentioned groups have been planned during the next phase of project implementation.

List of FIR and GD
Filed in ten focal sites From January 1, to June 30, 2001

Annex - 1

Chapai Nawabganj

SL#	Police Station	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Gomostapur	45/00	01.10.99	01	02
2.	Shibganj	09/01	07.02.01	01	03
3.	Shibganj	14/01	19.05.01	01	01
4.	Shibganj	03/00	05.08.00	01	04
5.	Boalia	07/01	02.06.01	02	03
6.	Godagari	23/01	15.06.01	11	03

Cox's Bazar

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Ukhia	10/85	25.06.01	01	02
2.	Ukhia	8/60	19.04.01	02	02

Dhaka

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Cantonment	20/01	28.05.01	03	04
2.	Mirpur	82	28.02.01	09	01
3.	Badda	28/265	20.05.01	01	02

Dinajpur

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Kotwali	50/657	25.12.00	01	03

Gopalganj

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Gopalganj Sadar	57/245	30.05.01	01.	06
2.	Gopalganj Sadar	12/99	16.11.98	01	04
3.	Gopalganj Sadar	07/01	25.09.00	01	04
4.	Gopalganj Sadar	26/00	25.12.00	01	03
5.	Gopalganj Sadar	11/99	02.11.98	01	05
6.	Gopalganj Sadar	322/00		01	02
7.	Gopalganj Sadar	25/00	02.10.99	01	02
8.	Tungipara	33/99	16.03.97	01	05
9.	Kotalipara	04/00	14.01.00	01	03
10.	Kotalipara	09/98	19.07.97	01	05
11.	Kotalipara	06/00	17.10.00	01	03
12.	Kotalipara	11/00	28.11.00	01	05
13.	Kotalipara	37/00	21.06.00	01	10
14.	Muksudpur	94/01	29.11.00	01	07
15.	Muksudpur	35/00	23.03.00	01	03
16.	Muksudpur	24/98	12.06.98	01	0

Jessore

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Sharsha	38/99	21.04.99	01	01
2.	Sharsha	03/99	01.05.99	01	02
3.	Sharsha	06/99	04.06.99	01	06
4.	Sharsha	01/99	01.09.99	01	02
5.	Sharsha	179/01	01.03.01	01	01
6.	Monirampur	14/00	01.02.00	01	03
7.	Jhikorgachha	03/01	06.07.01	03	03
8.	Keshabpur	03/00	06.01.00	01	02
9.	Jessore Sadar	220/01	27.05.01	01	02

Lalmonirhat

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Patgram	2/14	18.02.01	01	03
2.	Patgram	5/14	23.03.00	01	01
3.	Kaliganj	05/30	19.05.01	01	04
4.	Kaliganj	09	26.06.01	02	01
5.	Hatibandha	03/10	20.03.01	01	04

Narayanganj

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Siddhirganj	20/20	01.02.01	05	07
2.	Siddhirganj	14/34	27.02.01	04	04
3.	Narayanganj Sadar	02	03.04.01	01	01

Satkhira

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims	No of Accused
1.	Kalaroa	01/53,117/00	03.07.01	01	01
2.	Kaliganj	09/61	.05.00	07	04
3.	Kaliganj	14	08.03.94	01	03
4.	Satkhira Sadar	19/19	26.01.00	01	01
5.	Shyamnagar	15/194	26.09.99	02	05

Cases outside the focal sites

SL#	Name of the Thana	Case Number	Date	No. of Victims
1.	Haripur, Tahakurgaon	12/67	21.06.01	02
2.	Fultola, Khulna	02/02	27.01.01	01
3.	Khanjahan Ali, Khulna	12	13.10.99	01
4.	Kachua, Bagerhat	03/25	13.05.01	01
5.	Ulipur, Kurigram	492/01	03.06.01	04

General Diary (GD) filed during the reporting period:

SL#	Name of the Thana	GD Number	Date
1.	Kaliganj, Satkhira	1069	21.02.01
2.	Satkhira Sadar	9971053	25.01.01
3.	Kalaroa, Satkhira	884	25.04.01
4.	Jessore Kotwali	138	22.05.01
5.	Jessore Kotwali	1409	23.05.01
6.	Chuadanga Sadar	310	08.04.01
7.	Lalmonirhat Sadar	653	19.03.01
8.	LalmonirhatSadar	653	18.03.01
9.	Narayangonj Kotwali	62/00	02.12.00
10.	Dhaka Kotwali	1108	
11.	Mirpur, Dhaka	82	28.02.01
12.	Savar, Dhaka	1108	
13.	Gauripur, Mymensing	1192	
14.	Muktagachha, Mymensingh	819	23.01.01
15.	Joydevpur, Gazipur	616	

Protection and Legal Action against Women & Children Trafficking Project
Monthly Report from Field Office
Period: January to June 2001

SL	Activities	Dhk	Ng	Gpl	Lkp	Cox's	Djp	Lal	Cpy	Stk	Jsr	Total		
												Jan-Jun 2001	Oct-Dec 2000	Till Date (All inclusive)
1	Information Collection													
1.1	Number of victims' detail Information collected	22	19	20	8	43	2	7	7	19	52	199	83	282
1.2	Collect other information regarding trafficking either visiting the places or from other sources / media (local news paper, journal etc.)	19	17	4	0	22	11	28	0	20	25	146	86	232
2	Legal Assistance													
2.1	Number victims identified to provide legal assistance	10	14	7	0	4	1	12	0	4	31	83	12	95
2.2	Number of victims provided legal support	9	7	5	0	3	0	7	0	13	27	71	08	79
2.3	Assist the panel lawyer in prosecuting offenders. Total Target: 28	0	4	9	0	0	4	9	3	7	11	47	08	55
2.4	Assist in filing case. Total Target: 28	5	4	13	0	2	4	1	7	8	16	60	08	68
2.5	Number of victim released from save custody, brothel or any other places	1	1	1	0	0	1	2	0	9	14	29	10	39
3	Liaison													
3.1	Visit Police Station & Court for monitoring of trafficking Total Target: 270	45	15	49	8	26	56	48	43	44	53	387	35	422
3.2	Visit NGOs and make liaison to collect more information about trafficking.	30	43	15	5	15	9	45	9	3	6	180	82	262
3.3	Arrange group discussion meeting with local journalist, elected bodies, community people, educational institutes, BDR, etc. to make them aware about their responsibilities and collect information on trafficking Total Target: 130	25	32	46	0	10	15	32	26	42	20	248	50	298
4	Fact and Finding													
4.1	Number of investigation and verification of incident	18	6	9	0	26	6	12	3	0	16	96	34	130
4.2	Follow-up / reinvestigation of case / incident	18	8	10	0	20	1	8	3	31	8	107	15	122

Note: Dhk - Dhaka, NG - Narayanganj, Gpl - Gopalganj, Lkp - Lakshmipur, Cox's - Cox's Bazar, Djp - Dinajpur, Lal - Lalmonirhat, Cpy - Chapai Nawabganj, Stk - Satkhira, Jsr - Jessore

A Six Year Plight

Amena Begum came to Dhaka with her son Rubel and her second husband Jahangir and settled at Samir Mia's slum at Badda a few years back. Her son Rubel was only four years old when one day he suddenly disappeared. Rubel was abducted and trafficked to Dubai by an organized gang of Traffickers. Amena Begum suspected husband Jahangir's involvement with the incident, so she left him with her two other sons.

In 1997 BNWLA came to know that an organized ring of traffickers was operating at a slum at Badda. Executive Director of BNWLA Advocate Salma Ali immediately initiated an investigation into the matter. Jahangir Amena's ex-husband informed them that a woman namely Najma was involved in the abduction of his stepson.

Najma Begum came to Dhaka with her husband Mannan and settled at the same slum as Amena in 1993. Najma soon came in contact with an organized group of traffickers and with the lure of easy huge money was soon recruited by them. She made friends with Amena and when she got the chance she abducted Rubel (then four years old) with the help of Jahangir, Rubel's step-father. Najma took Rubel to Dubai disguised as her son, going by the name of Shariful. The Trafficking gang provided her with passports and all necessary documents. After staying in UAE a few years she returned home in April 2001.

In May 2001 BNWLA was informed that Najma returned home with Rubel to collect more boys to traffic to Middle East. On receiving the information Investigation Officer of BNWLA Mominul Islam hurriedly went to Rangpur along with the mother of Rubel on May 17, 2001 where the alleged traffickers were staying at that time. He informed the Police Super of Rangpur Naem Ahmed about the matter and he promptly instructed the local police officials to assist them on this matter. The Investigator along with a correspondent of The Daily 'Jugantor' and some police personnel raided Najma's house. They rescued Rubel and arrested Najma and her husband Mannan and recovered from their possession two passports with visas for Dubai and two tickets of Kuwait Airlines. Police arrested Mannan and Najma in this connection. Rubel was later brought to the shelter home of BNWLA where he is currently living.

Gang leader Ali Hossain who worked as a chauffeur in Dubai with the help of his accomplices in Bangladesh Jahangir Hossain and Bashir from Madaripur ran the trafficking ring. These two ran the operation in Bangladesh and provided Najma with all the travel documents.

The boy Rubel was only a tiny tot of four when he was abducted and trafficked to Dubai. Six years later on his return he is only fluent in arabic and hindi and does not understand and speak Bangla. Rubel had a long and painful story of physical and mental torture and agony. He had been dragged through the Middle East and sold to a Sheikh Abdullah Baraseth Naeemi.

He lived with three other boys, one Pakistani and two Indians. They all worked as camel jockeys. Rubel expressed his traumatic experiences specially about witnessing a Sudanese boy's plunge to death from the back of a camel during a race. The regulation weight for camel jockey was fifteen kilograms and Rubel was retired to a farm at Russel Khayyum after he became heavier than the regulation weight. He described that they were compelled to work in the desert without adequate food and water in a bid to make them loose weight.

BNWLA filed a case against Najma and her husband Mannan who are at present being detained in jail under the Special Powers Act. Rubel was given to the custody of BNWLA and now residing at the shelter home of the organisation at Dhaka.

Ambia a portrait of a trafficked Victim

Name: Ambia

Father: Sona Miah

Husband: Late Jamir Ali

Village: Sanmandi

PO: Sanmandi Bajar

Police Station: Sonargoan

District: Narayanganj

Ambia (now 35) was married to (late) Jamir Ali and had a son (2) and a daughter (5). When her husband died she fell in hardships. Ambia worked as a part-time maid in people's houses.

One of her relatives offered her a good job in Dubai and lured by it she gave him Tk. 80,000 to take her to Dubai. Ambia left her children and went to Dubai in January 2001.

In Dubai Ambia was employed in the house of a Sri Lankan family. She worked there for two months and became suspicious when she did not receive any wage. Besides, doing the household responsibilities she was also forced to act as sex slave. She could not bear it and jumped from the roof of a two storied building in a bid to commit suicide. She was seriously injured. One of her legs and backbone were broken in the accident. Police rescued her while she was unconscious and admitted her into a hospital filed a case against the Srilankan family.

Ambia informed the Police about the abuse she experience during her stay with the Srilankan family .She also informed that she had paid Tk. 80,000 to a travel agency, Mahbub Travels located on the second floor of a house at Malibagh area in Dhaka.

BNWLA repatriated Ambia with the assistance of Labor and Employment Ministry and Ministry of Home Affairs on 26 / 06/ 01. She was directly taken to the Holy Family Hospital at Dhaka by the staff of BNWLA and admitted her there. She was later transferred to CRP center in Savar where she is currently receiving treatment under the supervision of BNWLA. The concerned staff members are regularly following up her condition. BNWLA is also preparing to go for legal action against the alleged trafficker.

Prevention of women trafficking Involvement of people's representatives sought

by Staff Reporter

Speakers at a workshop have said people from all walks of life including the people's representatives must be involved in the process of checking trafficking in women and children.

President of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) Advocate Salma Ali, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Ward Commissioner Begum Rokeya Shahabuddin, MIS consultant of the Directorate of Women Affairs Arfin Ara, Coordinator of the BNWLA project, HEM Nazrul Islam spoke at the training workshop on "Checking trafficking in women and children and taking legal action". AYM Nazmus Saadat made a presentation on trafficking in women and children. BNWLA organised the workshop in the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium here yesterday.

About 40 persons including journalists, lawyers, teachers, NGO representatives participated in the daylong workshop.

Advocate Salma Ali said the BNWLA was pledge-bound to resist trafficking in women and children.

Begum Rokeya Shahabuddin said government alone cannot prevent trafficking in women and children. She stressed the need for involving common man including the people's representatives in the initiative to check trafficking.

AYM Nazmus Saadat in his presentation said poverty, unemployment, migration from village to town, river erosion, flood, natural disasters, lack of education, child marriage, polygamy and dowry are the main reasons of trafficking.

Independent
29.6.2001

স্বাধীনতা সিনেমাটির : বাংলাদেশ থেকে
প্রতি বছর ৭ হাজার নারী ও শিশু মৃত
ও অক্ষাণ শব্দে বিভিন্ন দেশে পায়
বাংলাদেশ জাতীয় মহিলা আইনব্রী

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